

PALESTINE SOLIDARITY

Newsletter

International Committee of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

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More Solidarity with Palestinians is Key to Peace in Middle East

For the Palestinian people the World Parliament of the Peoples for Peace (Sofia, September, 23-27, 1980) marked a new advanced stage in the solidarity movement in support of their struggle for their national rights.

The discussions centring on Palestine at the World Parliament were detailed, reflecting the concern of the major political forces present there. (Social Democrats, Christian Democrats, Liberals, Radicals, Communists, Agrarian, Centre, National Democrats and Nationalists in addition to trade unions, religious circles, women, youth, parliamentarians, etc.)

Growing understanding

They also revealed a growing worldwide understanding that the Palestinian people's struggle for peace and justice in the Middle East is an indivisible part of the worldwide efforts to safeguard world peace; that Israel's continued belligerency, with U.S. encouragement and connivance, can easily lead the world to a devastating nuclear confrontation from which there can be no return.

The 2,260 delegates from 137 countries and 100 international organisations clearly recognised this, and readily responded to the call by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat for increased support. They resolved to turn November 29 (which the UN has proclaimed the Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People) into the greatest demonstration ever in support of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination and establishment of their own independent sovereign state

without any outside interference.

U.N. action required

In another significant move this politically diverse world gathering called on the U.N. General Assembly to reject the credentials of the Israeli government's delegation to the General Assembly, if Israel persists in violating U.N. resolutions and in considering Jerusalem its "eternal capital".

It also proposed the early convening of a broad international Conference of Solidarity with the Palestinian People to mobilise international public opinion for the early implementation of U.N. resolutions on the Palestine question.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, who was one of the main speakers at the unprecedented five-day world gathering, told delegates that Israeli belligerency was the main obstacle to peace in the Middle East. He quoted Israeli Chief of Staff Rafael Eitan as saying that the only meeting that can take place between Israel and the Palestinians is on the battle field. Such utterances, Mr. Arafat pointed out, reveal the aggressive mentality of the militarist rulers of Israel and their intentions hostile to world peace.

Camp David encourages

WEF

Castigating the Camp David Accords and the Israeli-Egyptian treaty, Mr. Arafat said that contrary to the claims of the U.S.A., Egypt and Israel, these accords have served to increase tension in the Middle East and intensify

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PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat receiving the World Peace Council's award "The Ho Chi Minh Award" from WPC President Romesh Chandra at the World Parliament of the Peoples for Peace. The award was conferred on Mr. Arafat and the PLO for outstanding contribution to the struggle for national independence, justice and progress.

Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

In accordance with a decision of the United Nations General Assembly, November 29 will be observed throughout the world as the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

In addition to being an occasion for expressing solidarity with and support for the struggle of the Palestinian people for their inalienable national rights, November 29 is the specific day for recalling that international legality, as embodied in the resolutions of the United Nations, is being flouted and presently violated by Israel, and a handful of states, in

particular the U.S., and needs to be upheld.

Since 1967, to confine ourselves to the recent, easily remembered past - Israel, with the support, encouragement and blessings of the U.S., has violated every single resolution of the United Nations and its agencies on the conflict in the Middle East, the question of Palestine, the situation in the occupied territories, last but not least, the question of Jerusalem.

This arrogance and belligerency have to be stopped; if the world is to be spared

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Israeli-U.S. Relations: A Strategic Link Serving Aggression

Israeli-U.S. relations have been extensively discussed for over three decades by journalists and specialists inside and outside both countries; but never has attention been focused on them as closely as it has been since the fall of the Shah in Iran and the Iran-Iraq conflict, generally known as the "Gulf war".

The new situation has prompted several Israeli newspapers and government officials to define in brazen terms the links between the two states.

It is a sound marriage, one official in the Israeli Prime Minister's Office defined it. A leading Israeli daily spelled it out more elaborately: Israel is a long-term security asset to the U.S.A.

Lavish Assistance

To prove that, *The Jerusalem Post* (International Edition) (October 2-18, 1980) reported that between 1948 and 1980, the U.S. has funnelled US \$ 15.6 billion in assistance to Israel. (This is exclusive of the construction cost of the Negev base and a special US \$ 200 million grant made last year by the House Foreign Affairs Committee). For fiscal year 1981, the U.S. Administration has asked Congressional approval for another US \$ 1.985 billion.

More important, according to Israeli officials, is the fact that not a single "significant item" on Israel's arms shopping-list has been turned down by the U.S., including the supply of weapons systems so advanced that they have yet to be released to NATO allies.

In addition, *The Jerusalem Post* points out, Israeli officers take part in American exchange programmes; and joint research and development projects are flourishing. There is a constant sharing of intelligence, and flow of American technology to Israel.

U.S. government unreserved support for Israel and its aggressive and expansionist policy extends to international forums. At the U.N. General Assembly and the Security Council, Israeli rulers

have always counted on the U.S. to vote against Assembly resolutions or to veto those of the Security Council which condemn their aggression and expansionism, or express solidarity with the Palestinian people. The U.S. has behaved similarly in all other inter-governmental forums.

To dispel any notion of possible rupture or cooling off in this close relationship, a high Israeli official said: "The marriage is sound, even though we don't whisper our love for each other every night before we go to sleep, and despite the lack of flowers."

Why?

The question which has often puzzled researchers is: why over-generous U.S. material and political support of Israel? Is it a mere alliance relationship; and if so, why does not the U.S. bail out its other allies in a similar manner?

The Jerusalem Post, an authoritative Israeli paper with close Establishment links, chose recently to answer the question in an intriguing manner. "The extent of Israel's strategic relationship with the U.S. is secret," it said.

But, despite all the secrecy, evidence of some aspects has emerged over the years, which can be summarised in the following manner:

1 - Israel, with its present policy of aggression and expansionism, serves as a permanent deterrent for any positive change in the oil-rich and strategically-sensitive Middle East - a fact which serves the imperialist designs of the U.S. Elaborating on this *The Jerusalem Post* says: "It is common knowledge that in the early stages of the

relationship... there was a close understanding that Israel would act on America's behalf if there were changes in the established Mideast status quo."

The paper cites the following two examples of this role in action: Israel prepared, on U.S. instructions, for an all-out war in the region in September 1970 when the Jordanian government waged a war against the Palestinian resistance movement. The aim of these preparations was to prevent Jordan's defeat by the Palestinians and similarly to prevent Syrian aid to the Palestinians. Another example is Israel's present role in the Lebanon. The occupation of southern Lebanon, the aid to the right-wing forces, particularly Sa'ad Haddad's forces, and the continuous attacks against Lebanon, are intended to prevent the emergence of a democratic, secular and independent Lebanon and at the same time - to destroy the Palestinian movement and the Lebanese national movement, the catalysts for such a democratic change.

Other examples that can be cited, and which were pointed out by the same paper, are Israel's expected military intervention in any country of the region, including the oil-rich sheikhdoms of the Gulf and Sadat's Egypt, if, what it calls, "U.S. interests" are threatened by an anti-U.S. change.

2 - Israel is a vital link in U.S. plans for a total war, either global or regional. In addition to its strategic position in the Middle East, Israel can provide the U.S. with extremely important services considered vital to U.S. war plans. Among them "is a highly trained, battle-proven, Western-oriented and extremely sophisticated military infrastructure to which the Americans can adapt... with almost no preparation," according to *The Jerusalem Post*.

To exploit Israel's position to the maximum in carrying out their war plans, the U.S. has helped it to build air bases among the most

modern in the world, and equipped it with the capability to provide all needed tactical and strategic intelligence on regional events. A very sophisticated network to make possible coordination of communications during battle was developed which was coupled with a multi-pronged early warning system.

All this, says *The Jerusalem Post*, is available to the U.S. should the Americans require it.

3 - Israel is a front and an agent for U.S. imperialism. This specific aspect of Israeli-U.S. relations has had serious damaging effects in Third World countries; and Israel's rule have no regrets about it. *The Jerusalem Post* clearly says: "Until 1973 Israel was active in over 100 Third World countries providing both military and agricultural assistance. Israel was... acting as an agent of the West in these countries, most of them suspicious of Western 'Yankee' imperialism, and was forging pro-Western alliances in the developing countries. Israeli men were to be found in Asia, Latin America and Africa, often working with regimes with which it would be difficult for the U.S. to maintain an overt relationship. Even though most African countries broke their formal Israeli ties in 1973, Israel continues to have close contacts with all manner of regimes on three continents."

Another aspect of this role is the Israeli-South African link, which Israeli government sources prefer not to speak about; and if they do, they simply deny its existence. However, numerous facts have conclusively proved the existence of close Israeli-South African ties. *The Jerusalem Post* justifies that on the grounds that "Western control of the Cape of Good Hope is of vital strategic interest to America," and the U.S. is severely restricted in the overt support it can give to the apartheid regime in Pretoria.

There are also countless other ways in which Israel serves American military interests; among them is the so-called "battle test for American weapons systems" through their use by the Israeli army. *The Jerusalem Post* has this to say on the matter: The downing of

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Shaka'a and Khalaf Honoured

The mayors of Nablus and Ramallah Bassam Shaka'a and Karim Khalaf were awarded by the World Peace Council the Salvador Allende Medal for courage and sacrifice in the struggle for national independence, democracy and progress.

The two Palestinian leaders from the occupied West Bank were the victims in June of an Israeli criminal attempt on their lives together with the Mayor of Al-Birah Ibrahim Suleiman Tawil who escaped unharmed. Mr. Shaka'a lost his two legs and Mr. Khalaf lost one foot in the attack. (For details see *Palestine Solidarity*, June 1980 issue).

Mr. Romesh Chandra, President of the World Peace Council, and Mrs. Hortencia Busi de Allende, widow of the former President of Chile, Salvador Allende, presented the medal to Mr. Shaka'a during the World Parliament of the Peoples for Peace. Mr. Khalaf, who could not be present at the World Parliament due to his medical treatment, will be presented with the medal at a special ceremony in the near future.

Mr. Chandra praised the courage, sacrifice and dedication of Mr. Shaka'a on presentation of the medal to the West Bank leader.

"Bassam Shaka'a symbolises the heroism of the Palestinian people, their determination and courage in the struggle against Israeli occupation to attain their inalienable national rights, their self-determination and state," said Mr. Chandra.



Mr. Bassam Shaka'a, Mayor of Nablus, is lauded by WPC President Romesh Chandra during the special ceremony conferring on Mr. Shaka'a the WPC's Salvador Allende Medal for courage and sacrifice in the struggle for national independence, democracy and progress.

Mr. Shaka'a, who received the medal in his wheel chair, responded by saying that it was a great honour for him to be awarded the medal carrying the name of a great man who fought for national independence, democracy and progress.

"It is a medal honouring the struggle of the Palestinian people and their determination to regain their usurped inalienable national rights," said Mr. Shaka'a.

MORE SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINIANS IS KEY TO PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST

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the war of genocide against the Palestinians. It was under cover of these accords that Israel stepped up its repression against Palestinians in the occupied territories, intensified its land-grabbing and settlements in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and increased its military aggression against Palestinian and Lebanese civilians in the Lebanon, particularly in the southern part of the country.

Mr. Arafat warned that the situation in the Middle East could explode into another full-scale war unless Israel is forced to comply with U.N. resolutions; and Palestinian rights are respected.

Stop aggression

This more than unhappy ending is not preordained or unavoidable, however, it can be checked and the obviously accelerating slide towards it

can be stopped, if international legality is upheld - if the peace forces work tirelessly for the implementation of U.N. resolutions on the question of Palestine, put pressure on Israel to implement those resolutions and urge governments to provide Palestinians with all necessary support to attain their inalienable national rights, including their right to self-determination and statehood.

The warning words of the Palestinian leader underlining the gravity of the situation and its causes, aroused the deep concern of the delegates who in the first place met in Sofia to put an end to the arms build-up and to thwart the world's drift toward war. Their response, as has been shown was forceful and energetic.

They further voiced full support for the resolution of the emergency session of the U.N. General Assembly on Palestine in July and called on the U.N. to take immediate steps to implement its resolutions on the question of Palestine.

Autonomy, they said, was not the solution to the

Palestine problem, the solution of which is much overdue, but statehood and self-determination. They reaffirmed that the Palestine Liberation Organisation is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and called on all governments to grant it full diplomatic recognition without any further delay. (See text of the resolution adopted by the World Parliament).

Violation of human rights

Israeli violations of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories was another major issue which aroused the deep concern of the World Parliament. All aspects of these violations were studied at a special hearing where witnesses from the occupied territories and prominent Israeli lawyer Mrs. Felicia Langer presented documented evidence proving Israel's gross violation of international law, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Geneva Convention on the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (August 1949).

The evidence presented revealed conclusively that the occupied territories are living under openly terroristic rule with crimes being committed daily which can be described without hesitation as war crimes and crimes against humanity.

These crimes, the hearing concluded, are not committed by mere individuals, but are part of a system of institutionalised terror planned and decided upon by the topmost leaders of the Israeli government. (See the World Parliament's Statement of Findings on Israeli Violations of Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, elsewhere in this issue).

The key to peace in the Middle East is the solution of the Palestine question, and the key to the solution of this problems is increased solidarity with the PLO and the Palestinian People.

Israel has to be stopped! The U.S.A. has to be stopped and peace and justice in the Middle East have to be attained!

Israel Bans Contacts with PLO; Fury over Meeting with Arafat

Israeli official circles reacted with unchecked venom and fury to a get-acquainted meeting at the end of September between PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and four members of the delegation of the Israeli democratic and progressive forces who attended the World Parliament of the Peoples for Peace.

The four Israelis who met Mr. Arafat included two members of the Israeli Knesset (Parliament) Mr. Tawfik Toubi (Deputy Secretary General of the Israeli Communist Party) and Mr. Charlie Biton (Black Panthers Movement), prominent lawyer and human rights activists, Mrs. Felicia Langer and journalist, Leon Zahavi.

Hysterical demands

The Israeli Knesset conducted a debate on the meeting during which demands were hysterically made to lift the parliamentary immunity of Mr. Toubi and Mr. Biton and bring them to trial together with Mrs. Langer and Mr. Zahavi. The Cabinet discussed the issue and the Attorney General was requested to study the case and pronounce his opinion on whether the members of the delegation violated Israeli laws and should be prosecuted.

The incident against the four Israeli personalities was not confined to extreme right-wing elements such as Member of Parliament Gusha Cohen (initiator of the law annexing and declaring Jerusalem "the eternal capital of Israel"), but extended to Labour Party leader, Shimon Peres.

Israel's official fury reflects the government's fear of any search for peace based on recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people. It also is an expression of a growing attempt by the ruling circles to stifle any criticism of their aggressive and expansionist policy. Sincere efforts to demonstrate to the Israeli

public that the government's 30-year-old policy of expansionism and ignoring the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people lies at the root of all the bloodshed in the area are viewed with utmost concern and anger by the Israeli establishment and are decried and attacked.

Ban on contacts with PLO

Less than a month after the Israeli deputies to the World Parliament of the Peoples for Peace met with Chairman Arafat, the Israeli government enacted a law making any contact with the PLO and 13 other Palestinian organisations illegal and punishable by long-term imprisonment (up to 15 years).

However, the Israeli public's interest in the meeting prompted the Israeli radio (Hebrew Service) to invite Mr. Toubi to a one-hour programme of answering telephoned questions. We publish below a summary of the programme based on the report published by the Israeli paper, *Al-Arti* (October 7, 1980):

Question: A week ago you shook Yasser Arafat's hand in Sofia and today his emissaries carried out a terrorist operation in Givatayim's post office, killing two persons and injuring six others. How do you feel?

Toubi: First of all I don't know that the perpetrators of the operation were Yasser Arafat's emissaries. (The operation in Givatayim's post office referred to was the explosion of a parcel bomb addressed to a woman resident of the town. It was

officially announced later that the parcel bomb was the work of Israeli criminal elements engaged in an under-world vendetta. - Editor). Whoever the perpetrators are, I strongly condemn this crime, the crime of killing civilians. The shedding of any drop of blood, of a Jew or an Arab, evokes sorrow and regret. But this question cannot be asked without a question being asked also about the continued aggression, bombardment and the abominable crimes being committed daily by the Israeli government's apparatus against the Palestinian refugee camps. In the operations old men, women and children are killed and maimed. It is the duty of every person who has a minimum of humane feelings to denounce these actions and work to stop this bloodshed.

There are those who don't want to see the soil in which these actions grow. The difference between us and those who for example condemn the Givatayim's operation is that they ignore the government's policy which daily sheds the blood of Palestinians. The shedding of blood will only stop when the rights of the Palestinian people are recognised... This conflict is like a swamp which must be drained and dried. This can only be done by putting an end to Israeli occupation of territories, oc-

cupied since 1967, and recognition of the Palestinian people's right to establish their own independent state.

Question: There are those who claim that recognition of the PLO is leading practically to the growth of neo-Nazi and anti-Semitic terrorism. An expression of this has been the terrorist attack in Paris which resulted in the destruction of a synagogue and the killing of innocent people.

Toubi: I have heard the government statement and the declaration of (Prime Minister) Begin before. I don't agree with this. But before elaborating I would like to condemn this fascist operation against French Jews. The claim that the recognition of the PLO has led to the growth of fascism is unacceptable to me. The truth is that in France the extreme right-wing, fascist forces support the policy of the Israeli government. It is these forces which totally support Israeli occupation and Israel's policy against the rights of the Palestinian Arab people and against the PLO. Consequently I reject the attempt to equate fascist anti-semitic terror with just criticism of the Israeli government's policy, and with support for the cause of the Palestinian Arab people. Whoever attempts this tries to exploit criminal actions to legalise the unjust policy of the Israeli rulers, and to bail them out of their isolation.

Mr. Toubi strongly castigated a listener's characterisation of Mr. Arafat as "terrorist" and "criminal", saying, "I reject these expressions. Arafat is a Chairman of a national liberation movement and the representative of the Palestinian Arab people. He is a political leader of this people and its national movement, the PLO. Whoever rejects these facts is mentally sick, lacks sane thinking and ignores reality."

PUPILS DISPERSED TO DIFFERENT VILLAGES AS A PUNISHMENT

The military government of Judea and Samaria (West Bank-Editor) took an unprecedented step: It decided to disperse over 300 pupils presently attending the Emir Hassan school in Bir Zeit among other educational institutions in distant villages. The military government decided on this step in view of the stormy demonstrations which had taken place in the locality over the last year.

(The Israeli daily, *Yedioth Aharonot*)

How to Sell a Lie

The Israeli ruling circles are deeply concerned and disturbed. All their recent efforts, backed by millions of U.S. dollars, to sell Israel as a "peaceful country surrounded by neighbours intent on destroying it" have found few, if any, buyers. In fact, Israel's image is taking a terrible beating as public opinion everywhere has come to grasp the long-standing fact that Israeli belligerency, aggression and expansionism lie behind all the trouble in the Middle East.

Search for new strategy

Recent discussions in the Israeli press indicate that the Establishment is active searching for a new communications strategy to remedy the situation. Public relations firms and advertising outfits in the U.S. and Canada, it seems, have been approached to present suggestions and plans for polishing Israel's tarnished image.

A leading Canadian advertising executive, David Cravit, who has close ties with the Israeli Establishment, analysed Israel's problem in an article in *The Jerusalem Post* (International Edition) (September 28 – October 4, 1980): "The 'story' itself (that Israel is trying to sell) is just plain wrong... You can't 'sell' misguided policy," he said.

Israel's propaganda should switch over, he asserts, from speaking about the Holocaust and the "heroism" of the Israeli army, which have been overused and belong to bygone days, to "today's issues" using "today's terms".

To do that he does not suggest any change in Israel's policy or actions, which, he admits, are a disaster – the occupation of Palestinian and other Arab territories, continued violation of U.N. resolutions, adamant refusal to recognise the national rights of the Palestinian people, the establishment of Israeli colonial settlements in the occupied territories and the gross violations of human rights in the occupied territories.

He suggests rather that

more lies be concocted picturing the Palestinians as the aggressors and the stumbling bloc to peace. He also suggests a high-gear campaign to defame the Palestinian leadership and portray it as thoroughly vile.

Manipulation of public opinion

For that, he proposes further manipulation of public opinion. Attacks against Palestinians, in his view should not be made by Israel, but by other people. A new broad-based mass movement, which he calls "Israel Freedom Committee", blatantly pro-Israeli, should be created to carry out a wide variety of programmes, ranging from direct advertising in the media to the distribution of "information" kits.

The Committee's activities should include, according to Mr. Cravit, the mounting of a campaign to expel the PLO from the United Nations and the organisation of picketing and demonstrations whenever speakers critical of Israeli policy or seeking to see justice done appear in any public forum.

He advocates, as well, for example, that: "A special programme should be aimed at Christian religious organisations, especially fundamentalist groups, the aim here being to represent the PLO as a ruthless threat to the stability of the Holy Land."

Mud-slinging

As if all the Israeli mud-slinging against the Palestinians and the PLO were not enough – not to speak of the killings and daily bombardment of Palestinian refugee camps – Mr. Cravit would favour the mounting of an aggressive media advertising campaign, the message of which would be "dramatic, designed to shock, command attention and force an emotional reaction".

Samples of his proposed advertisements: A photo of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat "at his most frightening and unprepossessing" with the caption: "Would you want this man as your neighbour?" or a photo of Jordan's King Hussein with the caption, "Why won't this man give the Palestinians their country back?" The latter is designed to portray King Hussein as the cause of the whole problem; as if Jordan was ever the homeland of the Palestinians!

Use of world Jewry

Finally, Mr. Cravit's new communications strategy would have as its objective what he calls "turning every Jew in the world into a soldier of Israel". He proposes to do that by organising training programmes using

synagogues and other organisations to prepare people to manipulate public opinion more effectively on behalf of Israel's rulers.

He is anxious to make clear that this final point "is the key to the whole project... (which) would create a whole army of communicators, each of whom regards himself as carrying out a mission on Israel's behalf, and would rejuvenate the mood in the Diaspora and reawaken the sense of commitment".

Final word

Now that you know what you should expect and for what you should brace yourself, there remains a final word. Mr. Cravit's plan, and probably the other plans which the Israeli Establishment may have by now prepared and which could be professionally excellent, have one main weakness – the same weakness that Mr. Cravit detected himself. How can you "sell" a totally wrong story? How can you sell killing as benevolent? How can you sell occupation as independence? How can you turn aggression into peacefulness? How can you make of expansionism good neighbourliness?

The old axiom still remains: You can fool some of the people some of the time, but you can't fool all the people all of the time.

EXPANSION OF SETTLEMENTS

A ministerial committee headed by Minister of Agriculture A. Sharon has recently expanded the limits of a number of settlements in the West Bank.

The settlers expect that the committee will in a few days take a decision to expand the areas of additional settlements.

In recent months, bodies engaged in settlement and Ministry of Construction and Housing have made intensive efforts with respect to permanent construction, particularly in the Shomron settlements.

- In the settlement of Kadumim (Near the village of Kaddim), a new permanent quarter is being built.
- In the settlement of Shavi Shomron, a new permanent quarter is being constructed.
- In the settlement of Alon Moreh on Mount Kabir buildings for industry are being built. In the vicinity of this settlement 400 dunams of Arab-owned private land have been expropriated for the purpose of paving a highway that would avoid the settlement.
- Settlers in the settlement of Shila have begun building permanent houses.

(The Israeli daily, *Ha'aretz*)

There must be more concerted public action around the world to closely monitor Israeli practices in the occupied territories and immediately denounce violations as they occur, if Israel's violations of human rights of Palestinians - occupation itself being the most serious - are to be checked.

The *Palestine Solidarity Newsletter*, basing itself on reports in the Israeli press, has been able to record the following list of violations of human rights in the occupied territories during September and October 1980. Although the list is far from complete, yet it should spur public opinion to act without delay to force Israel to respect the Geneva Convention on the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (August 1949).

conditions. Their letter complained in particular of overcrowded cells (50 prisoners are kept in cells designed for 20); perfunctory health care (the standard treatment is *Aspro*, regardless of the seriousness of the ailment); subsistence-level food and routine transfer to solitary confinement.

• An unspecified number of young men were detained in Nablus on August 26 on charges of alleged membership in an illegal organisation and resistance to occupation, according to *The Jerusalem Post*.

• A 62-year-old man, Ribhi Mustafa Sharbati, was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment by a Lydda military court, on charges of membership in an illegal organisation and resisting occupation.

DIARY OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

ARRESTS, TORTURE AND IMPRISONMENT

• A military court in Nablus sentenced five secondary school students, all minors, to imprisonment on charges of "participating in demonstrations and membership in illegal organisations". The sentenced students are Waddah Ghouri-40 months; Adel Harzallah and Nidal Kaddoumi-2 years each and Ibrahim Sweilem and Kaid Sarhan-20 months each.

• Three Palestinian students who study in Arab countries were arrested on arrival at the West Bank when they came during the summer vacation to visit their families in the occupied territories. No charges were laid. The Israeli authorities arrest such students as a rule to prevent them visiting the occupied territories or to obtain information from them. The students are held incommunicado for months, interrogated and prevented from returning to their studies in time; according to Israeli lawyer Felicia Langer.

• The deputy warden of Beersheba prison prevented lawyer, Walid Fahoum, from meeting a number of his clients held in the maximum security prison of Beersheba.

• Prisoners at Ramallah's Central Prison complained in a letter they sent to the press that they are held in nightmarish



• A 32-year-old Palestinian prisoner, Anis Mahmoud Douri, died in Ashkelon Prison on August 31, according to *The Jerusalem Post*. Douri was serving a life sentence, and was recently moved from the notorious Nafha Prison, where he was on hunger strike, to Ashkelon.

• The Israeli authorities refused to grant the Chief Editor of *Al-Talia*, Mr. Bashir Barghouti, the right to attend the World Parliament of the Peoples for Peace, to which he was invited. Mr. Barghouti was placed under house arrest in early July.

• A Palestinian from the village of Kafr Malek, near Ramallah, Othman Ahmed Othman, was arrested for possessing a copy of the Israeli paper *Al-Ittihad* and 3 T-shirts with the inscription "Release Bassam Shale's". He was kept in prison for one night and then released on bail.

• A Palestinian young man, Saleh Abdul Jawwad Saleh, was detained in September without being charged. His detention was renewed several times. Mr. Saleh's detention took place after his return from France where he had obtained an M.A. in political economy. He is the son of the former Mayor of Al-Bireh, Mr. Abdul Jawwad Saleh who was deported from the West Bank in 1973.

• A 14-year-old Palestinian Ilyan Mutlan from Jabalya refugee camp, in Gaza, was arrested and brutally tortured; and as a result he became insane.

COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT

• Curfew was imposed for one day on Al-Jalazoun refugee camp near Ramallah recently. The inhabitants of the camp were ordered to gather in a square and were threatened with imprisonment. The Israeli authorities justified their action by alleging that stones were thrown at military vehicles by residents of the camp. The camp was subjected to this cruel treatment several times in the past. A few months ago, a one-month total curfew was imposed on the Jalazoun and Al-Dheisha refugee camps.

• A house was demolished in Al-Azzariah village near Jerusalem by the Israeli army.

• The Israeli authorities demolished a house in Nablus in which a detainee, Hassan Ali Namir, lived. The detainee was accused of anti-occupation activities. The other inhabitants of the house were thrown out and left without shelter.

• Three Arab Jerusalem families were ordered evicted from their homes to make possible the transfer of Prime Minister Menachem Begin's office to East Jerusalem. The houses of three families are near Begin's planned office. The three families comprising 25 members are resisting the order.

• Nablus municipality lodged a strong protest with the Israeli authorities against the demolition early in September of a house in the city belonging to the Al-Dbeik family. The house was demolished by the Israeli army for alleged membership of one member of the family in an "illegal organisation".

• The house of Hassan Sherif Abu Iqthela of the village of Atanak, near Jenin, was demolished by the Israeli army at the end of August. The owner was not allowed to get the furniture out of the house. The reason? Alleged membership in an "illegal organisation".

• In mid-September, in a mass-scale collective punishment action, the Israeli army demolished 9 Arab houses in the occupied West Bank. In justifying this action, the army alleged that the persons responsible for the Hebron operation

(See *Palestine Solidarity*, May 1980 issue) belonged to the families which own the houses.

• For the second time in less than a month, Israeli soldiers surrounded Al-Jalazoun refugee camp near Ramallah, and conducted a thorough search of its houses and inhabitants. For over a week in mid-September, Israeli soldiers prevented entry or exits from the camp, ordered its inhabitants to assemble in a square and searched them and their houses. The justification was that stones were hurled at soldiers from the camp.

EXPROPRIATION OF LAND AND SETTLEMENTS

• Israeli Minister of Agriculture Erick Sharon declared recently that the only proper answer to the UN Security Council resolution condemning the annexation of Jerusalem by Israel is to surround the holy city with Israeli settlements. Sharon was addressing a crowd which had gathered for the inauguration of an Israeli settlement in the occupied West Bank.

• The Israeli daily, *The Jerusalem Post*, has reported that the cabinet has decided to establish six new colonial settlements in the occupied West Bank. The paper added that the cabinet is not interested in publicising the decision.

The same paper has also reported that 10 other settlements will also be established.

• The inhabitants of Ramon village have appealed to the Israeli High Court of Justice against the expropriation by the Israeli authorities of 10 thousand dunums (1000 hectares) of their land.

• Rabi Moshe Levinger leader of extreme right-wing settlers has called for increased settlement in the Arab city of Al-Khali (Hebron). Levinger is the leader of the Israeli settlers in Kiryat Arba, which was established on Arab land near Hebron.

• Israeli settlement in Hebron has expanded recently. The military government has allowed Gush Emunim settlers to move into another building in the centre of the Arab city, known as the Pharmacist's building. Previously, Gush Emunim settlers moved into the Al-Dabwiah building in the city and have since been clamouring for occupation of other buildings.

• The Israeli government has secretly decided to establish new settlements in the Gaza Strip, according to *The Jerusalem Post*.

• The U.S. newsagency, the Associated Press, reported at the end of August that an Israeli government decision to establish 10 additional settlements in the occupied West Bank, is part of a plan for the setting up of 85 new settlements in the West Bank. The 10 new settlements will be built - 4 in the Nablus region, 3 on the hills adjacent to the Jordan Valley, and 3 others South of Al-Khali (Hebron) mountain.

• The inhabitants of Wadi Rahal village, South of Bethlehem, complained early in September that Israeli land surveyors were marking their land. When they protested shots were fired in the air to disperse them and some were arrested and dragged to the military governor's headquarters where they were served orders forbidding them to enter their land.

• The inhabitants of Al-Mazra'ah Al-Sharqiyah village complained early in September that Israeli army units took over land situated south of the village belonging to them. The owners were barred from entering the land on the pretext that military manoeuvres will be conducted there. The villagers' complaint says that their previous experience with such army actions indicates confiscation of the land.

• A group of Israeli settlers near the village of Dura Al-Qara, Ramallah district, tried to chase Arab villagers off land belonging to the village, which they are cultivating. The settlers wanted to confiscate the land and annex it to their settlement; but the villagers drove the intruders out.

• The head of the Settlement Department of the Jewish Agency announced that his department has prepared plans for the establishment of 75 new settlements in the West Bank during the next five years. He also said that 12 to 15 new settlements have to be established every year to accommodate 120-150 thousand new settlers.

QALQILYAH MAYOR ARRESTED

Mr. Amin Ibrahim Al-Nasr, the Mayor of Qalqilyah, in the occupied West Bank, was arrested and jailed for five days.

The Israeli authorities claimed that a booklet published by the Mayor on the achievements of the municipal council during the last four years was an incitement against occupation.

His release on bail came after a general strike by the inhabitants of the town and a strong solidarity movement in the occupied territories.

DIARY OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

• The village Council of Qatna in the occupied West Bank appealed for solidarity and support to prevent the Israeli authorities from confiscating 2500 dunums belonging to the village.

PRESS, EDUCATION, HEALTH AND TRADE UNIONS

• The Journalists' Association in the occupied territories issued a statement protesting against the restriction orders issued against the editors of three Jerusalem newspapers — "Al-Sha'ab", "Al-Fajr" and "Al-Taliya's". In August the three editors were confined to their place of residence for an indefinite period of time. The statement pointed out that more than 50 Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have been served lately with restriction orders.

• The West Bank newspaper "Al-Mithaq" petitioned the Israeli High Court to instruct the Israeli government to rescind its order prohibiting the distribution of the paper in the occupied territories.

• The Bier Zeit municipality issued a statement protesting the closure of Prince Hassan Secondary School in the town. The statement said that the Israeli government's action left the students enrolled in the school without alternative facilities to continue their education.

• An exhibition of Palestinian paintings in Ramallah was ordered closed by the Military governor; the deputy Mayor of Ramallah was forbidden to inaugurate the exhibition and five paintings by a West Bank artist which had been shown on previous occasions, were confiscated.

• The art gallery in Ramallah, called "Gallery 79" was ordered closed indefinitely, in another of the Israeli government's measures against cultural institutions in the West Bank.

• The Union of Palestinian Students in the West Bank and Gaza Strip (an organisation banned by the Israelis) issued a statement in September protesting against Israeli measures against higher institutions in the occupied territories.



Hussein Mahmoud Zeidat stands amid the rubble of his house in the village of Beni Naim, near Al-Khalil. The house was demolished by the Israeli army allegedly because his son, Yasser Zeidat, is active in the resistance against occupation. Israel has regularly resorted, in contravention of international law, to collective punishment for acts of individuals.

• Dr. Gabi Baramki, Deputy President of Beir Zeit University, was informed by the military governor that the Israeli authorities do not approve of the convening of a meeting of the Higher Council of Education in the West Bank, a group which they consider illegal. The Higher Council was set up in 1967 by the Association of Professional Organisations in the Occupied Territories as a specialised committee and has been functioning regularly ever since. Press reports indicate that this Israeli move is linked to recent actions against Palestinian higher educational institutions.

NAFHA PRISONERS THREATEN TO RENEW HUNGER STRIKE

"The prisoners of Nafha, who stopped their hunger strike several days ago, are about to renew it because they claim that their demands for improved prison conditions have not been met. The hunger strikes held in solidarity with the Nafha inmates in Ramleh, Shaata and Ashkalon jail have now ceased."

(The Israeli daily, Yediot Aharonot)

Conditions Worsen in Beersheba Prison

In the wake of a 13-day hunger strike by Palestinian political prisoners in Beersheba's maximum security prison (August 1980), treatment of the prisoners took a turn for the worse and promises by the prison administration to fulfil the prisoners' demands never materialised, states a report by Israeli lawyer, Walid Al-Fahum, published in the Israeli paper, *Al-Ithidat* (Oct. 7, 1980).

Mr. Al-Fahum has appeared as defense counsel for many Palestinians, tried by Israel for alleged resistance to the occupation, and is well informed on conditions in Israeli jails through first-hand experience as a lawyer whose work requires him to regularly visit the more than 17 Israeli jails.

His report unequivocally states that collective punishment meted out during the hunger strike in Beersheba's prison is still in force. Visits by the prisoners' families and use of the canteen continue to be denied. The majority of prisoners, despite the summer heat, have not been issued appropriate clothes, as prison regulations require, and continue to be dressed in winter clothes. Sleeping arrangements have not been improved and the prisoners continue to sleep on the floor, despite promises that beds would be provided. Over-crowding, of cells with all its effects, continues to be a major complaint. No measures have been taken to improve

ventilation and to increase daylight in the cells; consequently dim electric light is on all day. Food has not improved and remains at subsistence level. Medical care continues to be perfunctory. No dentist has visited the prison for a long time, and treatments prescribed by the general practitioner are never administered by the nurse.

The report also listed the names of Palestinian prisoners suffering from serious ailments, who are not receiving the required medical care. They include: Usama Jarar, who has been in prison for 11 years and is suffering from a chronic bronchitis and loss of memory; (his treatment was suspended during the hunger strike and has not been restored); Mahmoud Alwi, who suffers from a serious heart condition, and Tala Trad Muheisen, who has been driven insane by torture.

Mr. Al-Fahum records in his report that in mid-August he was forbidden by the prison authorities from meeting his clients in Beersheba's prison because, as the deputy warden told him, "They are on strike and all their rights have been suspended, including meeting their lawyer".

On another occasion, after the end of the strike, he was allowed to meet six of his clients, but in the presence of a prison guard who followed all the discussions.

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World Parliament of Peoples for Peace

Resolution on Palestine

The World Parliament of the Peoples for Peace warmly welcomes the resolution of the seventh emergency session of the United Nations General Assembly on the question of Palestine. It considers that the speedy implementation of this resolution is vital for the solution of the Palestine problem and for the attainment of a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East.

The World Parliament strongly condemns the Camp David accords and the ensuing 'autonomy' talks and considers them a serious impediment to peace in the region and a conspiracy by US imperialism, Israel and Egypt to liquidate the just cause of the Palestinian people, to perpetuate Israeli occupation and to undermine the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the universally recognised sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The World Parliament affirms that the core of the Middle East problem is the question of Palestine. In spite of the fact that the Security Council resolution 242 emphasised the necessity of the complete withdrawal of Israel from all the occupied territories, nevertheless it does not constitute a base for the solution of the question of Palestine. It expresses the belief that no comprehensive and just peace in the region can be realised without complete and unconditional withdrawal of Israel from all the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem, and without the achievement of a just solution of the problems of Palestine. This solution must be on the basis of the attainment of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to return to their homeland, self-determination and establishment of their own independent and sovereign state in Palestine without any outside interference, in accordance with the UN General Assembly resolutions concerning the question of Palestine.

The World Parliament believes that any initiative purporting to solve the Palestine problem which does not take into consideration the above mentioned principles and rights and the fact that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and that the Palestinian people, inside and outside the occupied territories are one and indivisible, is an attempt to revive under a new guise the universally rejected Camp David accords and the already collapsed and futile autonomy plan.

It strongly deplores the attitude of US imperialism, Israel and Egypt, which are trying by various means to revive the already bankrupt Camp David accords and 'autonomy' talks.

The World Parliament considers that the prolongation of the Palestine problem, the solution of which is much overdue, creates more obstacles in the path of a just peace and further endangers the peace and security in the region and that of the world. It further warns that the continued aggressiveness of Israel and its blatant rejection and violation of UN resolutions, concerning the question of Palestine with the full encouragement and connivance of the USA, are endangering the peace of the whole world.

The World Parliament strongly supports all the UN resolutions concerning the question of Palestine, particularly the call contained in the resolution of the seventh emergency session of the UN General Assembly for the beginning of unconditional Israeli withdrawal before 15th November 1980 from all the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967.

It supports the call contained in the resolution for the imposition of mandatory sanctions against Israel if it continues to violate UN resolutions, as provided for under Chapter VII of the UN Charter which requires the imposition of such sanctions when world peace and security are threatened. If Israel continues its non-compliance with the emergency resolution, the General Assembly should reconvene as provided for in the resolution and the 35th regular session should take appropriate measures to enforce its implementation.

Further, should Israel continue its non-compliance with the resolution, especially flouting international legality through declaration of Jerusalem as its capital, thus denying the will of the world's majority and undermining the UN itself – the General Assembly should consider on procedural grounds denying the credentials of the delegation of the Israeli Government due to its position on the 'Jerusalem Law' of the Knesset.

The World Parliament congratulates the UN Special Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People for its work and pledges full support for its activities.

The World Parliament calls for a most active and effective worldwide campaign for the implementation of the resolution of the seventh emergency session of the UN General Assembly. It also calls on all those who cherish peace, justice and freedom to intercede with their governments to put pressure on the Israeli government immediately to take steps to implement the resolution.

The World Parliament urges all governments who have not yet recognised the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, to grant it full diplomatic recognition without any further delay.

The World Parliament strongly condemns the terror unleashed by Israel against the Palestinian people in South Lebanon and particularly in the occupied territories – the killings, attempted assassinations, confiscation of land, establishment of Israeli settlements, deportation of Mayors and other leaders, restriction orders, collective punishment, imprisonment, torture and other oppressive measures aimed at breaking Palestinian resistance to military occupation.

The World Parliament strongly condemns the annexation of Jerusalem by Israel and the law passed by the Israeli Parliament declaring Jerusalem 'the eternal capital' of Israel.

This act constitutes a brazen violation of the United Nations resolutions and those of other international bodies which have repeatedly called on Israel to desist from changing the status and character of this holy city. It is in contravention of the Fourth Geneva Convention (1949), to which Israel is a signatory, and which clearly forbids an occupying power from annexing or changing the character and status of an occupied territory.

The World Parliament considers this act by Israel as a reflection of Israel's insistence on continuing its policy of acquisition of territory by force, aggression and aggravation of the situation in the Middle East.

The World Parliament draws the attention of world public opinion to the gravity of the law on Jerusalem, adopted by the Israeli Parliament, and warns of its serious consequences to peace and security in the Middle East and in the whole world.

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The World Parliament welcomes the resolution of the UN Security Council on Jerusalem, unanimously adopted with only the U.S. abstaining, which is actually an expression of U.S. encouragement to Israel, and calls on all governments to abide by it and to refuse to recognize the validity of Israel's action. It welcomes the transfer by governments of their embassies from Jerusalem, and calls on others which have not yet done so to follow, suit, in compliance with the UN Security Council resolution.

The World Parliament expresses its firm solidarity with the Palestinian people and their sole legitimate representative, the PLO, and greets their heroic struggle against imperialist, Israeli and reactionary conspiracies and for their inalienable national rights.

The World Parliament greets the Israeli democratic and progressive forces who are actively supporting the Palestinian people's struggle for their inalienable national

rights and for the implementation of the U.N. resolutions on the question of Palestine.

The World Parliament calls for the broadest worldwide observance of 29th November as International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, which was proclaimed by the United Nations.

The World Parliament calls for the convening, on the broadest possible scale, of an international conference of solidarity with the Palestinian people as a culminating event of a series of national and regional activities in support of the UN resolutions on Palestine. It expresses its support for the International Committee of Solidarity with the Palestinian People and urges all national and international organizations to support it and all its activities and campaigns.

It calls on all governments and national and international organisations to take immediate steps to implement this resolution and to take it as basis for their solidarity actions with the Palestinian people.

STATEMENT OF FINDINGS ON ISRAELI VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES

The World Parliament of the Peoples for Peace, examined at a special hearing Israeli violations of human rights in the occupied Arab territories. Conclusive evidence was presented at the hearing by persons from the occupied territories, as well as by representatives of the Israeli peace forces active in the defense of human rights of the Palestinian people. On the basis of these testimonies, the World Parliament came to the following conclusions:

During its over 13 years of occupation Israel has consistently and grossly violated and continues to violate the human rights of the people in the occupied territories in defiance of International law, in particular the Geneva Convention on the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (August 1949), and in violation of the resolutions of United Nations.

Expropriation of Arab land and property for the establishment of Jewish colonial settlements in the occupied territories which started immediately after occupation, has been intensified during the last two years. Over 27 per cent of land in the West Bank and 35 per cent of the Gaza Strip have been expropriated, and over 100 Israeli colonial settlements established. Israeli officials have declared recently that land expropriation will be stepped up and the number of colonial settlements will be increased to 141 by 1985.

The expropriation of land and establishment of colonial settlements are coupled with the expulsion of Palestinians from their land and property and the settlement of Israelis in their stead. Tens of thousands of Palestinians have been and continue to be forcibly evicted from their land and property, a fact which threatens the Palestinian people with total uprooting from their homeland.

The expropriation of land, the forcible evicting of Palestinians and the establishment of Jewish colonial settlements, which have been intensified since the Camp David accords and the Israeli-Egyptian Treaty, are part of Israel's official policy of totally annexing the occupied Arab territories. The annexation of the holy city of Jerusalem and the declaration that it is the 'eternal capital of Israel', in contravention of U.N. resolutions and those of other international bodies, is a reflection of this expansionist and annexationist policy.

The Israeli colonial settlers in the occupied territories participate actively, together with the Israeli army in the oppression of the inhabitants.

Thousands of Palestinians, men, women and even children have been arrested, brutally tortured and sentenced to long terms of imprisonment. Estimates place the number of Palestinians in Israeli jails at over 4000 prisoners - all incarcerated in the most inhuman conditions, exposed to indescribable brutality by prison guards, and to lack of medical care, overcrowded cells, etc. These conditions which even the Israeli prison authorities were forced to admit are unfit for humans, have resulted in the death of several prisoners and led the prisoners on several occasions to stage prolonged hunger strikes. The last such action was in July 1980 when Palestinian political prisoners in the notorious Nafha Prison and other jails declared a hunger strike demanding equality in treatment with imprisoned Israeli criminals whose conditions are considered by the Israeli authorities to be inhuman. Two of the prisoners died as a result of forced feeding and beatings and a third died of after effects.

In pursuance of their 'iron fist' policy in the occupied territories, the Israeli authorities resort to the most brutal oppression of the population in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Peaceful opposition to occupation, and any expression of protest against its cruelty are dealt with ruthlessly. Many peaceful demonstrators, including children, were cold-bloodedly shot and killed by Israeli soldiers, hundreds have been wounded, arrested, tortured, and tried by military courts.

Brutal physical and psychological torture is widespread. Several prisoners have been killed under torture, others maimed for life or driven insane.

Collective punishment such as prolonged curfews imposed on towns, villages and refugee camps, demolition of houses, sealing of refugee camps, closing down of schools and universities, deportation of Palestinian leaders, public figures and intellectuals are all basic aspects of Israeli practices in the occupied territories.

Mayors and other leaders and public figures are prohibited from taking part in political activities. Moreover, their movements have been recently restricted

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and they have been confined to their places of residence. Assassination attempts have also been made with the encouragement of the Israeli authorities against mayors in the West Bank. Two attempts resulted in the maiming of the Mayors of Nablus and Ramallah, Mr Bassam Shaka'a and Mr Karim Khalaf.

Strict military censorship is imposed on newspapers, books and all forms of expression. Newspapers are not allowed to be distributed freely. Hundreds of books are banned, including scholarly works. Educational institutions are subjected to direct interference by the occupation authorities. In July 1980 an Order issued by the Israeli authorities in contravention of the Geneva Convention (1949) and in violation of the universally respected principle of university autonomy, allows the occupation authorities to intervene in the academic running of educational institutions and places them under the constant threat of being closed down.

The occupation authorities openly interfere in the running of trade unions, local associations, clubs and other similar institutions. All such institutions are prohibited from engaging in any political and social activities. An order issued by the occupation authorities in March 1980, empowers the Israeli authorities to interfere in the elections of trade unions.

Terror and gross violations of human rights are practiced in South Lebanon, particularly in the border region occupied by Israel.

...

The total picture given by the evidence presented before the hearing reveals conclusively that the occupied territories are ruled by open terror. Crimes are being committed daily which can be described without

hesitation as war crimes and crimes against humanity, and they are not being committed by mere individuals, but as part of a system of institutionalised terror planned and directed by the foremost leaders in the Israeli Government. The responsibility rests with the Israeli ruling circles as a whole.

The multitude of violations of human rights are crimes which call for the severest punishment. The World Parliament demands that all those responsible for instituting this system of terror as well as those who are executing it should be brought to trial by the international community.

The use of barbaric terror as a tool to perpetuate occupation, subjugate other peoples, and deprive a whole people of its right to self-determination, independence and sovereignty, is a crime which should be condemned.

From the evidence presented, it has become evident that there is an urgent need to:

- denounce the grave violations of human rights in the occupied Arab territories;
- bring pressure to bear on the Israeli Government to release all political prisoners in the occupied territories and stop the use of torture;
- put an end to deportation of people from the occupied territories and put pressure on the Israeli Government to allow all those already deported to return to their homes;
- bring pressure to bear on the Israeli Government to stop the expropriation of Arab land and the establishment of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories; and to dismantle all existing settlements;
- actively support and express solidarity with the struggle of the inhabitants of the occupied territories against Israeli occupation; and
- demand respect and application in the occupied territories of all international agreements and covenants on human rights.

Who Profits from Anti-semitism?

Israel's official propaganda machinery has tirelessly tried to implicate Palestinians and the Palestine Liberation Organisation in the recent terrorist attacks against Jews and the Jewish community in Europe. Yitzhak Shamir, Foreign Minister of Israel, went so far as to suggest the existence of links between the PLO and the anti-Jewish groups in Europe.

The PLO has condemned these allegations and denounced the recent atrocities committed against Jews in Paris.

In a letter to the *International Herald Tribune* Mr. Nabil Ramlawi, the representative of the PLO in London, made clear the position of the PLO on the anti-Jewish terrorist attacks.

We publish below the full text of the letter as it appeared in the paper's issue of October 16, 1980:

"On October 8, the *International Herald Tribune* reported the scurrilous remarks of Israel's foreign

minister, Yitzhak Shamir, in which he seeks to implicate the Palestine Liberation Organisation in having links with anti-Jewish groups in Europe.

As you have reported, Palestinian and other Arab groups have already denounced the recent atrocities committed in the French capital. Their abhorrence of the violence against Jewish individuals and communities is equally held by the PLO, as has been so declared in Beirut.

We regret that Zionist leaders should seek cheap propaganda from the violence being committed against European Jewry, and attempt to

exploit the situation in a pathetic campaign to score political and diplomatic points against the Palestinian people. We extend our concern and sympathy to European Jewry for two reasons. Firstly, we reject and oppose racial and community discrimination as a matter of principle. Secondly, the plight of the Palestinians and the strength of the Zionist movement are directly related to the presence of anti-Jewish feelings in Europe. It was the rise of fascism in Europe that provided the Zionist movement with the backing to establish a Zionist state in Palestine, and enforce the exodus of the native Palestinian Christians and Moslems from their homeland. Indeed, political Zionism originated in Europe in the late 19th century as a response to Anti-Semitism.

The past success of the Zionists in Palestine might not have been achieved without the presence of anti-Jewish feelings and actions in Europe. The Palestinians,

therefore, share with European Jewry a strong concern that every effort should be taken by the appropriate authorities to ensure firm action against those who seek to use violence, or incite it, against Jewish communities or propagate anti-Jewish prejudices.

May I state quite categorically and unequivocally that the Palestine Liberation Organisation has no links with anti-Jewish organisations in Europe. We consider the acts of discrimination against Jews to be a hostile act against the Palestinian people, serving only the interests of the Zionist movement in encouraging Jewish emigration to Palestine, and thereby strengthening the forces responsible for the exile of the Palestinians from their homeland.

If anyone is to benefit from the recent acts of anti-Jewish feeling in Europe, it is the Zionists and Israel, but certainly not the Palestinians nor the PLO."

ISRAEL HELPED CIA GET ARMS TO SOUTH AFRICA

Israel played a key role in helping the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency funnel ultra sophisticated arms to the apartheid regime in South Africa, despite the U.N. arms embargo on arms supplies to that regime, according to Britain's Independent Television network (ITV).

The report which appeared on the British TV network's programme "World in Action", on October 20, 1980, said that the CIA used Israel as a conduit for supplying Pretoria with ultra sophisticated extended range

artillery shells.

The story began in 1975 when South African troops invaded Angola. On the instruction of former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, the CIA ploughed money and military material into Israel with the request that it be transferred to South Africa.

The TV report also affirmed that the mysterious flash in the Southern Atlantic on September 22, 1979, was a nuclear explosion, and that South Africa and Israel were responsible for it.

"It is no secret, that many of these workers (Palestinian from the occupied territories working in Israel) are treated very badly by their employers. They have no social rights. They are exploited in a most disgusting manner. And on top of all - they are treated in the most humiliating manner."

Journalist Dudu Oren in the Israeli daily "Ha'aretz"

"The solidarity of the people (in the occupied territories) with the PLO is so strong, that nothing can undermine it."

Journalist Dani Rubinstein in the Israeli daily "Davar"

ISRAELI-U.S. RELATIONS: A STRATEGIC LINK SERVING AGGRESSION

(Continued from page 2)

Syrian MIG-21s recently by F-15s supplied the U.S. Air Force with invaluable operational information. The interphase of primarily American land and air systems, as demonstrated in the Lebanon over the past two years, has provided some important lessons.

These are but a few examples of the way in which Israel serves U.S. imperialist designs, regionally and globally, and which shed light on the reasons why consecutive U.S. Administrations have supported and continue to support lavishly the Israeli ruling circles. Any talk of a possible change seems by all indications a mirage; the relationship is a permanent one, as one Israeli paper so clearly put it.

UNESCO CENSURES ISRAELS

The 21 General Conference of UNESCO which met in Belgrade, condemned Israel for annexing Jerusalem and declaring it to be Israel's "eternal capital".

The resolution condemning Israel's actions was presented by a number of African countries, and only three countries (U.S.A., Canada and Israel) voted against it.

"The government wanted to make peace (referring to Israel's 'peace' treaty with Egypt) in order to rob and evict the inhabitants of Judea, Samaria (West Bank) and the Gaza Strip."

Israeli Member of Parliament Sh. Aloni (Citizens' Rights Movement), in the Knesset debates.

DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

(Continued from page 1)

another explosion in the Middle East, the consequences of which for world peace and security are sure to be disastrous this time.

The seventh emergency session of the U.N. General Assembly, which was devoted to the question of Palestine (July 1980), underlined in no unmistakable terms the extreme gravity of the situation; and decided on a number of measures vital for bringing peace, justice and stability to the Middle East. Paramount among those measures is the withdrawal of Israel from all Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967, and the recognition of the national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination and to establish their own independent and sovereign state without any outside interference.

It is imperative that these measures be transformed into reality, and in the shortest space of time, in the interest of peace in the Middle East and of world peace itself.

The International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian

People (November 29) provides public opinion with an invaluable opportunity to work in this direction. Political parties, trade unions, professional and all other organisations are called upon, regardless of all their differences, to join together on this occasion and demand that international legality be upheld, and that U.N. resolutions on the question of Palestine be respected and implemented without any further delay.

Meetings, conferences, demonstrations, petitions and other activities should be organised to demand that Israel and all those states which support it, in particular the U.S., abide by the United Nations resolutions and immediately take steps to implement them. Israel must be made to withdraw from all the Palestinian and other occupied Arab territories; the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and statehood and to return to their homeland from which they were uprooted and displaced must be recognised and the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, must be recognised by all.

November 29 this year is the occasion to make these demands heard, heeded and turned into reality.

..Prime Minister, Menachem Begin, told a delegation of leaders of the U.S. Congress that Israel is prepared to grant its force to the United States in order to protect the pro-Western interests in the Middle East. The West, so said Premier Begin, has only three military forces: NATO, whose loyalty is not tested and doubtful; the forces of the United States which are stationed outside the Middle East; and the Israeli army."

The Israeli daily Al-Hamishmar

"Our conscientious objection against military service in the occupied territories stems from our recognition that our military service in the occupied territories means active participation in the implementation of a planned policy of oppression and assisting the policy which will bring us an additional war."

From a statement of a group of Israeli soldiers, known as the Group of 27, who refused to serve in the occupied territories and were court martialled and imprisoned.

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